

## Jeremy Runnells Temple Recommend Interview February 9, 2016

President Ivins, since you have never bothered to ask me, I am including the Temple Recommend/Worthiness questions and my responses below so that it is absolutely crystal clear that there are no moral failings in my life that angst my conscience and which you have grounds to excommunicate me for:

### **1. Do you have faith in and a testimony of God the Eternal Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost?**

I'm open to the possibility that there is a god or a higher power but I'm not sure. Can this be faith? Is doubt and uncertainty about the existence of God, Jesus Christ or the Holy Ghost an excommunicable offense?

### **2. Do you have a testimony of the Atonement of Christ and of His role as Savior and Redeemer?**

I no longer do. I've come across very compelling and disturbing scholarly and peer-reviewed evidence and data that counters the divinity of Christ and claims of Christianity. Is having doubts about Christ and Christianity an excommunicable offense?

### **3. Do you have a testimony of the restoration of the gospel in these latter days?**

I no longer do. I came across very disturbing information about Joseph Smith and the origins of Mormonism which has caused me to question and doubt the church's foundational truth claims. Some of this information is confirmed by the church through its new essays found on [www.mormonessays.com](http://www.mormonessays.com). I have sincerely sought answers to these questions and concerns from a CES Director, a Church Historian, and other Church leaders including yourself - all of whom have promised answers but who disappeared. Well, except for you, President Ivins. You decided to break your silence to threaten me with excommunication.

Are having questions, doubts and concerns about the restoration an excommunicable offense?

### **4. Do you sustain the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator and as the only person on the earth who possesses and is authorized to exercise all priesthood keys? Do you sustain members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators? Do you sustain the other General Authorities and local authorities of the Church?**

I'm not seeing any prophesying, "seering" or revealing nowadays. I think these men have made grave mistakes as "prophets, seers, and revelators." I agree with the church in its recent [Race and the Priesthood](#) essay where they "disavow" the "theories" given by yesterday's "prophets, seers, and revelators" claiming that the ban on black men and banning black families from the

Temple for 130 years as divinely instituted to be a mistake. In other words, the essay confirms that yesterday's prophets were not really prophets - as they claimed to be - when they enforced the ban on black men and black families. It was instead their "theories" which at the time was accepted as revelation by the church and its members.

I think a lot of the men in high leadership are good men. I think most local leadership are good men. I sustain them as good men trying to do the right thing but if sustaining means that I believe that I should obey them without question or critical thinking, then no. History shows that "prophets" have led members astray into the trees on many occasions.

Is hesitating to sustain men, whom history and the church's own essays demonstrate as having led members astray, an excommunicable offense?

**5. Do you live the law of chastity?**

I do. I am faithful to my wife. I live a clean and moral lifestyle.

**6. Is there anything in your conduct relating to members of your family that is not in harmony with the teachings of the Church?**

No. I am a good husband and father who deeply loves and provides for his family.

**7. Do you support, affiliate with, or agree with any group or individual whose teachings or practices are contrary to or oppose those accepted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?**

I am not a member of another religion or sect or polygamous group. I am only interested in factual information, teachings and practices confirmed by LDS owned sources including the Church's recently released essays found on [www.mormonessays.com](http://www.mormonessays.com) and reputable and respected scholarship. Neither I nor the CES Letter teach any doctrine or practice not confirmed by factual sources - both inside and outside of the Church.

**8. Do you strive to keep the covenants you have made, to attend your sacrament and other meetings, and to keep your life in harmony with the laws and commandments of the gospel?**

As a believer, I have. I took my religion very seriously. Even though I no longer believe in the sacrament and "laws and commandments of the gospel", I still strive to live an honorable, moral, and clean life honest to myself and others.

Is doubt and disbelief an excommunicable offense?

**9. Are you honest in your dealings with your fellowmen?**

Yes, I am.

**10. Are you a full-tithe payer? Do you keep the Word of Wisdom?**

No, I'm not a full-tithe payer as my concerns and questions about LDS foundational truth claims have not been answered by the church and I cannot in good conscience give my money to an organization that not only will not answer my questions as promised to me but which still to this day keeps its finances secret while building \$1.5 billion dollar malls (City Creek), [a city in Florida](#), [a new Day Break development in Utah](#), etc. I cannot in good conscience donate 10% of my money to an organization that keeps its finances secret and in the dark.

Is having concerns about the church's lack of financial transparency and not paying tithing an excommunicable offense?

Yes, I keep the Word of Wisdom for the most part. I still don't drink alcohol. I still don't smoke. I still don't do drugs. I may drink tea once in a while. I may have a delicious white chocolate mocha from Starbucks.

Is drinking an occasional tea and having an occasional white chocolate mocha from Starbucks an excommunicable offense?

**11. Do you have financial or other obligations to a former spouse or children? If yes, are you current in meeting those obligations?**

I don't have any financial or other obligations. I provide for my wife and children.

**12. If you have previously received your temple endowment: Do you keep the covenants that you made in the temple? Do you wear the garment both night and day as instructed in the endowment and in accordance with the covenant you made in the temple?**

I have kept the covenants as a believer with a testimony. As I mentioned above, serious doubts, questions, and concerns along with the church's failure to keep its promises of answering my questions have led me to have doubts and concerns about not just the church's foundational truth claims but doubts and concerns on the origins of the Temple ceremony and its many changes over the years.

Are having doubts and concerns about the Temple and the Temple endowment an excommunicable offense?

**13. Have there been any sins or misdeeds in your life that should have been resolved with priesthood authorities but have not been?**

No. I have a clear conscience knowing in my heart that I have done nothing wrong. I am honest with myself and my fellow men. Where I have erred or made mistakes, I have apologized and corrected them as far as I am able.

**14. Do you consider yourself worthy to enter the Lord's house and participate in temple ordinances?**

If judged from a moral standard on whether I'm a good man, husband and father who is honest and morally clean and who does his best to do the right thing every day? Absolutely.

If judged from the Mormon standard of giving my unquestioning obedience, not asking hard questions and accepting doctrines and claims without scrutiny and testing? No.